STEWARDSHIP OF STATE INSTITU' (Continued from Page 1)

t governmental expenditures increased during the rade out of all proportion to essential needs. are many reasons why institutional costs did ease sharply during the decade. In the first place, ry schedule established in 1925 was rigidly ad-

and was not changed to harmonize with the high and salaries generally paid during the height of ity. At no time did all of the institutional emeceive the minimum salary provided in the schedfact even now 25 per cent of those on the paythe institutions receive less than the minimum. a, in spite of the universal trend toward the work day, nurses, attendants and other institu-

employes have continued to work long hours.

appeal to the thoughtful citizen who has come to

the State institutions. This amo quate to satisfy the urgent needs. confronted with an emergency in was set aside for capital expenditu institutions were seriously overer

were of necessity appropriated fo pansion at the Sessions of 1927. The appropriations for the cothe current biennium amount, aft Special Session, to \$5,656,010, an cent over the amount appropriate had the needs of the institutions

work twelve and even fourteen hours, and the in the two succeeding bienniums period of duty in the State institutions is no n ten hours. COMPARISON OF finally, the APPEAGRICATION AND POPULATION INCREASE system has AT STATE OWNED INSTITUTIONS immersurable 1921-23 TO 1931-33.

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In 1921 the General Assem

\$1,342,840 for construction and a

the control of dures. It has d the managef each instituith a financial n for each m since 1923. ing. cooperated in

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EDITORIAL.

By Alice P. Liveright, Secretary of Welfare

THE Commonwealth of Pennsylvania owns and maintains, under the supervision of the Department of Welfare, twenty-eight institutions for the care of

the mentally and physically ill, the mentally deficient, and the criminal and delinquent. If the average eftizen does not, perhaps, even realize that all these institutions are in existence it is only because he is not actually face to face with mental ailment or physical handicap, or driven by desperation to crime and ensuing incarceration.

To those who need them most the State institutions of Pennsylvania are a very real salvation in time of troubleand it is up to the Department of Welfare to see that they are operated at the highest possible standard of service

Although each of the institutions functions as an individual unit under the leadership of its own superintendent or managing officer, it attains its maximum efficiency through its identity as a part of the Department of Welfare. Greater economy of operation is made possible through centralized supervision of budgeting, accounting, cursing service, engineering, agricultural projects and

The sharp and consistent increase in institutional populations in recent years revealed by the chart on page one is a cause of grave concern. Yet even with these mountmg figures it is unfortunately true that the existing institutions cannot make room for all the citizens of the State who need their services and care. More than two thousand persons of varying degrees of mental illness are awaiting admission to the various mental hospitals and schools of Pennsylvania.

True, these are hard times. We must economize. Today the unemployed are the spectacular objects of our sympathy-but there is a serious flaw in the current demand that all money must go for relief while other expenses on by the board.

Economy cannot be measured in immediate terms of money saved. How far is it economical to withhold funds for welfare? Is it safe to let State-owned institutions deteriorate? Is it safe to let mental hospitals, penitentiaries, reformatories and State training schools house populations far greater than their canacity? In it safe to leave in the community the thousands now awaiting custodial care? Is it safe to curtail our program of prevention, by which alone the growing need of institutionalization can eventually be curbed?

January, 1933

State institutions are a vitally important factor in the social organization of Pennsylvania. What they need most is the intelligent interest and awareness of a larger public which is prepared to advise and criticize-not blindly, but constructively.

STATE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL HOSPITALS

By Anna, W. Lauman, Superintendent, Philipsburg State Hospital

THE State Welfare Department has under its direction ten State-owned general hospitals ranging in size from 80 to 246 bed capacity. They are located for the most part in rural, isolated parts of the State. chiefly in regions where coal mining is the principal in-

These hospitals were originally established for the purpose of caring for injured miners, since mining is a particularly hazardous occupation and the injuries which occur in mines are often of such serious and grave nature as to necessitate immediate hospital care. Later other departments were added so that the hospitals could care for the families of the miners, and they were eventually made general hospitals for the care of all members of the communities in which they were located.

It is the aim of the Welfare Department to make these hospitals community health centers for the areas they serve, and to make them fit the American College of Surgeons' definition of a hospital as "a community organization for providing the facilities and personnel to render the highest possible service to patients, professional groups, and to the community; for educating the community to demand and support adequate licalth services and sound health policies; for educating additional personnel and professional groups in technical fields and in cooperative endeavor; and for advancing knowledge

of disease and its prevention." This means that the patients should be housed in clean. sanitary, properly ventilated rooms and wards. They should have the benefit of modern equipment and appliances for the treatment of disease. There should be adequate equipment and trained persoanel for competent X-Ray and laboratory diarnosis: there should be an adequate dietetic regime carried out in conformity with modern medical knowledge of nutrition; and there should be provision for the continued education and development of the physicians practicing in the hospital and the

A good hospital is one of the greatest single factors in safeguarding the health of the community, both through its facilities for the treatment of disease and through its work in disease prevention.

The Welfare Department's policy is to develop these hospitals to the point that they may serve as models for institutions of their kind. This involves economical administration, adequate care at a cost which the people of rural areas can afford to pay, provision of all essential facilities, and development of community interest and support to the limit of the areas' financial ability to support their hospitals.

CENTRAL ACCOUNTING FOR STATE INSTITUTIONS

By S. B. Pfahl, Comptroller, Department of Welfare

LL accounting for the twenty-eight State-owned institutions is done by the Burcau of Accounting of the Department of Welfare, in Ifarrisburg. This includes accounting for appropriation expenditures, bud-

get control and per capita cost studies. Through the medium of the Hollerith Electrical Tabu-

lating System monthly statementa are prepared, showing: 1. Appropriation expenditures by object classification (salaries, wages, food, material, supplies, etc.) for

the month, year-to-date and biennium-to-date. 2. Cost by object classification for the month, year-to-

date and biennium-to-date. 3. Cost by function (administration, care of patients,

household, etc.)-object classification with detailed charges to sub-functions and sub-objects. (From 50 to 250 cost accounts.)

4. Summary of stores account, showing receipts, withdrawals and inventories,

5. Open commitments for which invoices have not yet been received and which are not included in costs.

Special statements dealing with per capita costs of particular functions or sub-functions are prepared from time to time; for instance, dictary costs of institutions are frequently compared on a per capita basis. With the application of this cost material and the assistance of competent professional advice, efficiency of operation can be readily determined.

The information necessary for the preparation of these financial reports is received through the "Appropriation Requisition" prepared by the institution, which lists all invoices, properly coded, for payment for material received or service rendered; and a Stores Withdrawal summary, which indicates the amounts issued from the Stores Inventory and the proper account to be charged.

Budget control is maintained through the Purchase Request which is made up by the institution and approved by the Department of Welfare before becoming an obligation against the appropriation. As invoices are approved for payment against these obligations, corresponding commitments are cancelled, leaving only a total of "open" or "unrequisitioned" commitments, which indicates how far in advance of actual expenditures the appropriation is obligated. This is not only a fundamental principle of control of a current budget, but also an invaluable aid in the accurate preparation of future budgets.

Advantages of the central accounting aystem include: 1. Uniformity of charges; coding of expenses can be checked so that similar items are charged to like functions, making comparisons between institutions possible.

2. Statements can be prepared promptly after receipt of the institution's final requisition of the month.

3. Effective date of the expense can be checked to see that the proper accounting period is charged

4. Sufficient material is at hand for the prompt preparation of special accounting statements, saving the time and expense of correspondence with institutions and assuring the uniform treatment of costs of all institutions.

5. Compliance with all regulations of accounting procedure can be readily checked.

AIMS OF STATE PENAL INSTITUTIONS

By Stanley P. Ashe, Warden, Western State Penitentiary

DENAL and correctional institutions have but one reason for being; the protection of society against further harm and depredation of the delinquent and criminal. Not many years have passed since the notion prevailed that the most effective method of attaining this objective was simply to place the offender in prison and forget him for the period of his sentence. This shortsighted policy, which failed to take into account the obvious and inevitable fact that the offender eventually had to be returned to society, has been superseded by the theory that mere imprisonment gives only temporary protection to society, and that, if permanent protection is to be assured, attempts must be made in the institutions to change delinquents into useful citizens.

The most important single factor having significant bearing on conduct after release is that brought about by the change that has taken place in our point of view of penology. Our policy has changed from one of punishment to one of treatment and rehabilitation. The result is a uniformly more humane treatment which, more than any other single thing, encourages the inmate to change his attitude toward society from one of belligerence to one of tolerance and cooperation. This altered atmosphere in Pennsylvania's penal and correctional institutions is of fundamental importance, and while its effect cannot be measured in terms of dollars and cents, it is of inestimable value to society.

But humane treatment would lead nowhere without specific training. Many inmates have need of specific skills for the ordinary accomplishments of the man of the street. Therefore the institutions have established elementary schools for the illiterate and near-illiterate,

with high school subjects for those sufficiently advanced. Every institution offers possibilities for training and appreciation in the fields of music, art, mechanics, and allied aubjects-not with the aim of producing artists, musicians or artisans, but with the idea of supplying new fields of interest to fall back on during leisure hours. The importance of genuine, socially acceptable interesta cannot be over-stressed. Anyone acquainted with the case histories of delinquenta knows that many of those now in institutions would probably never have found their way there had they known what to do with their leisure time.

Above all, institutions are codeavoring to develop in each inmate stable habit patterns of occupation. In the training and industrial schools one of the major objectives is to teach marketable trades. The penal institutions, dealing largely with adults, are at present inadequately equipped for the teaching of trades; but the available (Continued on Page 4)

Aims of Penal Institutions (Continued from Page 3)

means are utilized, not so much with the aim of teaching a specific trade as with the purpose of furnishing opportunity for experience in some of the elements of the common trades. The result is principally that of widening each man's usefulness and thus increasing his economic security. Definite training is available, especially for the younger inmates, in auch trades as barbering, tailoring, nursing, printing, plumbing, wring, and a few others, while advanced training in special fields through correspondence courses is made possible for inmates having the requisite ability. In some of the institutions contacts with State institutions of learning give direct instruction in vocational courses by faculty ment-

In recent years several of the penal and correctional institutions have introduced psychological and psychiatric examination of inmates. As this work develops it will make possible a more definite and integrated program of individual rehabilitation. In some institutions the psychological work has aiready shown its usefulness in the occupational placement of inmates within the institutions and particularly in prognosticating the man'a future conduct and his possibilities for success on parole

In a sense, penal and correctional institutions make a certain contribution to public health. Aside from the routine medical examination of inmates and the treatment of all sorts of ailments, both surgical and medical, during incarceration, some of the institutions have a strict ruling that no inmate with active venereal infection can be released on parole until he shows a certain degree of improvement. Furthermore, cases of insanity that were not recognized as such by the courts or that have developed during imprisonment are frequently transferred to hospitals for the insane. where they can be held beyond the expiration of the sentence, thus safeguarding society against almost certain harm.

The value of all this to society is quite obvious. To the extent in which we succeed in establishing socially acceptable leisure habits and in instilling stable occupational habits we steer the individual away from crime. To that extent is society protected-and society is the taxpayers.

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